About Us

The Office of Election Cybersecurity (OEC) was established in August 2018. As the nonpartisan, official election source in the state of California, the California Secretary of State's Office works around the clock to ensure every vote is safe and secure. Through the continuous investment in new tools, systems and infrastructure, the Office of Election Cybersecurity serves California with the sole purpose of keeping every Californian's vote safe from online interference, especially the spread of mis and disinformation. The Office of Election Cybersecurity works to make sure every Californian is equipped with the accurate information they need to vote and trust that their vote counts.

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CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

2022

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Office of Election Cybersecurity

Cyber threats to our elections are the new normal. In 2016, federal intelligence officials were unanimous in their conclusion that foreign actors interfered in the U.S. Presidential Election. While there is zero evidence of any hack or breach of any type in California during the 2016 elections, our state has taken critical steps to implement additional safeguards to further secure our elections. Among our initiatives is the creation of the Office of Election Cybersecurity (OEC) through an unprecedented $3 million appropriation by the Legislature and Governor. The OEC actively works with county elections officials to protect elections and combat election misinformation online. The Office of Election Cybersecurity also develops resources and trainings for county election officials to better prepare against cyber threats.

Since 2018, the Secretary of State's office has administered over $221 million dollars in state funding for voting infrastructure updates, including strengthening the accessibility, accuracy, security, and safety of our elections. Additionally, California has been awarded and distributed over $73.5 million dollars in federal funding from the U. S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC), between 2018 and 2022 for election security.

How We Protect Our Elections

We are tackling cybersecurity head on by implementing the following practices:

Cybersecurity Staff: Established the Secretary of State Office of Election Cybersecurity (OEC) and the Office of Enterprise Risk Management (ORM) in 2018.

Secure Voting Machines: California prohibits voting machines from being connected to the internet. We make it nearly impossible to systematically hack or rig an election.

Audits: We require each county to perform post-election audits after every election to help ensure accurate results.

Paper Ballots: Among our requirements are paper ballots or a voter-verifiable paper audit trail.

VoteSure: A first-of-its-kind public education initiative to promote trusted, accurate, and official sources of election information on social media.

Testing: Our voting systems undergo rigorous testing and must meet or exceed our security requirements before they can be used in California.

Mis-information: We work diligently to combat elections misinformation by debunking rumors and providing accurate information to all voters across California.

Daily Cyber News: A daily media summary for local elections officials on the top security stories.

How We Protect Our Elections (Cont.)

Threat intelligence: Webinars featuring security experts presenting the latest information to local election offices and an email alert list for emerging issues

Trainings: Providing lectures, workshops, and exercises on a variety of election security topics to ensure implementation of best practices across California.

Contact Us

It takes all of us to maintain public trust in our elections and minimize the threat of cyber incidents. We are committed to working with county elections officials and their staff to develop resources that can prepare them for cyber threats as well as combat election misinformation.

Look out for opportunities to come together and share information at upcoming OEC webinars and trainings.

Let us know your thoughts, questions, and ideas for building a stronger cyber community. Email **VoteSure@sos.ca.gov**

For more information, visit: **Cybersecurity.sos.ca.gov**